

Docket No.: 223002010004  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,455

Confirmation No.: 1938

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated November 16, 2007 (Paper No. 20071109), for which a response is due on February 16, 2008. This response is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a petition for a three-months' extension of time. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.